



From the Editor

We have received positive responses to our last issue's appeal for help. The Fu-ai Center in Shandong was able to acquire the supplies they needed. On behalf of the sisters and seniors, we thank you for your kind support.

In this issue, we will share a few success stories from past programs, and introduce the needs of a daycare center in Jilin province. We pray for your continuous support.

Many Thanks!

A Vehicle to Benefit the Old & Sick

In March 2020, we reported on the work of consecrated women to the seniors in mountainous regions in **Ningde, Fujian** province, and the difficulties they encountered due to lack of materials. With your donation, needed funds were raised. They were able to purchase food and daily necessities for the seniors, and to acquire a small vehicle. Below is an excerpt of their 'thank you' letter:



Hair-cutting for seniors

With the acquisition of a vehicle, we no longer need to rent one. Owning a vehicle makes it possible for us to increase the frequency of our visits to the elderly. In the past, we could only visit them once every 3 months. Now we can visit them monthly and provide them more timely services.

With this vehicle, we can now more readily visit old folks who live alone and those who are sick, especially the ones who suffer from terminal illnesses. We can comfort and pray with them in their last moments.

It has an additional benefit to the volunteers. It is more comfortable so they no longer suffer from motion sickness, allowing them to proceed immediately with their service upon arrival.

Thank you for your help!



Volunteers were about to set off to do visit

Buddy System in Hebei Enhances Social Harmony

Liming Home, an orphanage in Hebei province, was founded by a religious congregation more than 30 years ago. Most of the children admitted into the home were physically or mentally challenged. When they come of age, many are moved to a **vocational training center** for the handicapped, also founded by the sisters. Like other young people of similar age, these handicapped youth need and have the right for a life with normal social interaction. Nevertheless, they encounter immense difficulties and obstacles in such pursuits. For them, establishing a normal friendly relationship with others is a huge challenge. The sisters wanted to solve this problem, so in 2014, with the help from Caritas, they developed the '**Friendship Liming Program**' whose mission was to find friends for the young adults of Liming Home as well as other handicapped youth in the community.

Handicapped youth are called '**Liming youth**', and those who became their friends are called '**Liming buddies**'. The idea is for the Liming buddies to help Liming youth break out of their cocoons, expand their outlook on life, and to become integrated more fully into the community thus creating a more harmonious environment for all.

Over the past 6 years, with careful planning and a robust selection process, **65** Liming buddies have been matched with **50** Liming youth. Some of the Liming buddies have even introduced their Liming youth friends to their families and friends, broadening the scope of the program. The program has been mutually beneficial to the Liming youth and their buddies. The Liming youth got a chance to broaden their social circle while the Liming buddies developed personally and gained satisfaction.



Annual gathering



Perform together



Changes in Liming Youth

- An increased sense of self-confidence
- A sense of being loved
- A feeling of hope and purpose
- A deeper understanding of friendship
- A genuine sense of community
- An interest in the world around them, and the courage to participate

ACTIVITIES (2014 - 2020)	FREQUENCY
(1) Scheduled meetings	Twice a year
(2) Online interaction	Very frequent
(3) Training for Liming buddies	Once every 3 year
(4) Workshop for volunteers	Once every 2 year
(5) Field trip	Once every 3 year
(6) Summer camp	Once every 3 year
(7) Promotion & Charity Sale	15 times per year
(8) Home visit by social workers to families with physically / mentally challenged members	Once a month

Feelings among Liming Buddies

- 'It is deeply touching to witness the perseverance and strength demonstrated by the Liming youth. Through our friendship, I gained strength and courage to face my own challenges.'
- 'I have become more appreciative of and treasure my blessings.'
- 'I have become more patient and have better relationship with my families.'
- 'Through interacting with Liming youth, I am touched by their simplicity and humility, and have become more spiritual and relaxed.'
- 'I have grown closer to my family, and began to teach my children to be empathetic, compassionate, and to understand that all people are equal.'

Call from Afar ...

Item no. 7001

Dear Caritas,

Greetings! As a 3rd tier city, Jilin is relatively under-developed economically. Many of our youth have to seek employment in other province, resulting in an aging population. We, the **Tianji Social Service Center**, was established 13 years ago, and our mission is to visit and serve old folks who don't have family support. To-date, we have more than 70 volunteers.

Many of the seniors we served are immobile. Many also suffer from variety of illnesses. Some have to care for their handicapped grandchildren even they have no sons or daughters of their own to support them.

We have been doing a survey --- we asked the old folks we visited, "If we provide a place where you can participate in recreational activities, have free lunches, and you will be taken home at the end of each day. Weekend breaks. Would you be interested?" Their response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic, but "where can we find such a place in Jilin?" they asked.

We thought about this long and hard. We studied what Hong Kong is doing for its elderly folks, and come to a conclusion that we should remodel our service center to become a **Daycare Center for the Elderly**. We have licensed social workers and a medical doctor in our team, and we are well prepared to provide adequate services to the needy elders in our midst. We will be able to bring joy to their lives.

In order to remodel our existing center, we need RMB195,082. Our parishioners have been supportive of our services, but we can raise only RMB58,122.

We are still short by RMB136,960 (**EDITOR'S NOTE: = HK\$167,024**). We appeal to you for help, and pray that you will consider our request.

Fr. Wang
2021/03/02

Home visit



Item	Amt (¥)
Reclining chairs (x 10)	9,000
Utensils + chairs + tables	1,750
Computer & printer	5,700
Video monitor	3,440
Recreational equipment	4,312
Steel doors & windows	15,000
Non-slip tiles + lamps	12,200
Toilet remodeling	23,900
Heating panels	5,380
Barrier free passage	16,400
A van	98,000
(Total)	195,082

Looking forward
to your response!

For enquiry, please call 35892259 or 35892500, or leave your message at mainland@caritas.org.hk or 51737210. To show your care, you may **WhatsApp** the picture of the bank slip (**Account no.** of Caritas-HK : **HSBC --- 002-206118-002 or ICBC --- 701-010-036579**), including your contact information at 51737210, or write a crossed cheque payable to "Caritas-Hong Kong" and send it to: Mainland Service Desk, Room 505, Caritas House, 2 Caine Road, Central, Hong Kong. Please write down your contact information on the back.